GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6857
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
AVAILABILITY OF WHEAT AND RICE
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of rice and wheat in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether this availability of wheat and rice are sufficient to meet the requirement of that particular State;

(c) if not, the steps taken or being taken by Government to fulfil the per capita requirement of wheat and rice of a particular State;

(d) whether many States have complained that they are not getting their share from the Central pool to meet the per capita consumption; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that wheat and rice is made available to the States as per their requirement?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a): State-wise per capita availability of rice and wheat is not being estimated. However, the per capita net availability of foodgrains for the country as a whole for the year 2002 (provisional) was 181.50 kg./per year which includes 84.80 kg of rice and 62.10 kg. of wheat.

(b)&(c): State-wise and commodity-wise requirements of different crops are not being estimated. As against the normative requirement of foodgrains of 205.31 million tonnes, the production of foodgrains is estimated to be 212.05 million tonnes for the year 2001-02. However, the Government is taking several steps to increase foodgrains production and these include implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme, emphasis on developing and promoting newtechnologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), promotion of watershed development programmes, etc.

(d)&(e): Allocation of foodgrains from central pool made to the States/UTs under Targetted Public Distribution System(TPDS) is supplemental in nature and is not meant for fulfilling entire requirement of foodgrains of the States/UTs. At present, the States/UTs. are being allocated foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) at a uniform scale of 35 kg per family/per monthunder TPDS for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line(BPL) and Above Poverty Line(APL) families.